

TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

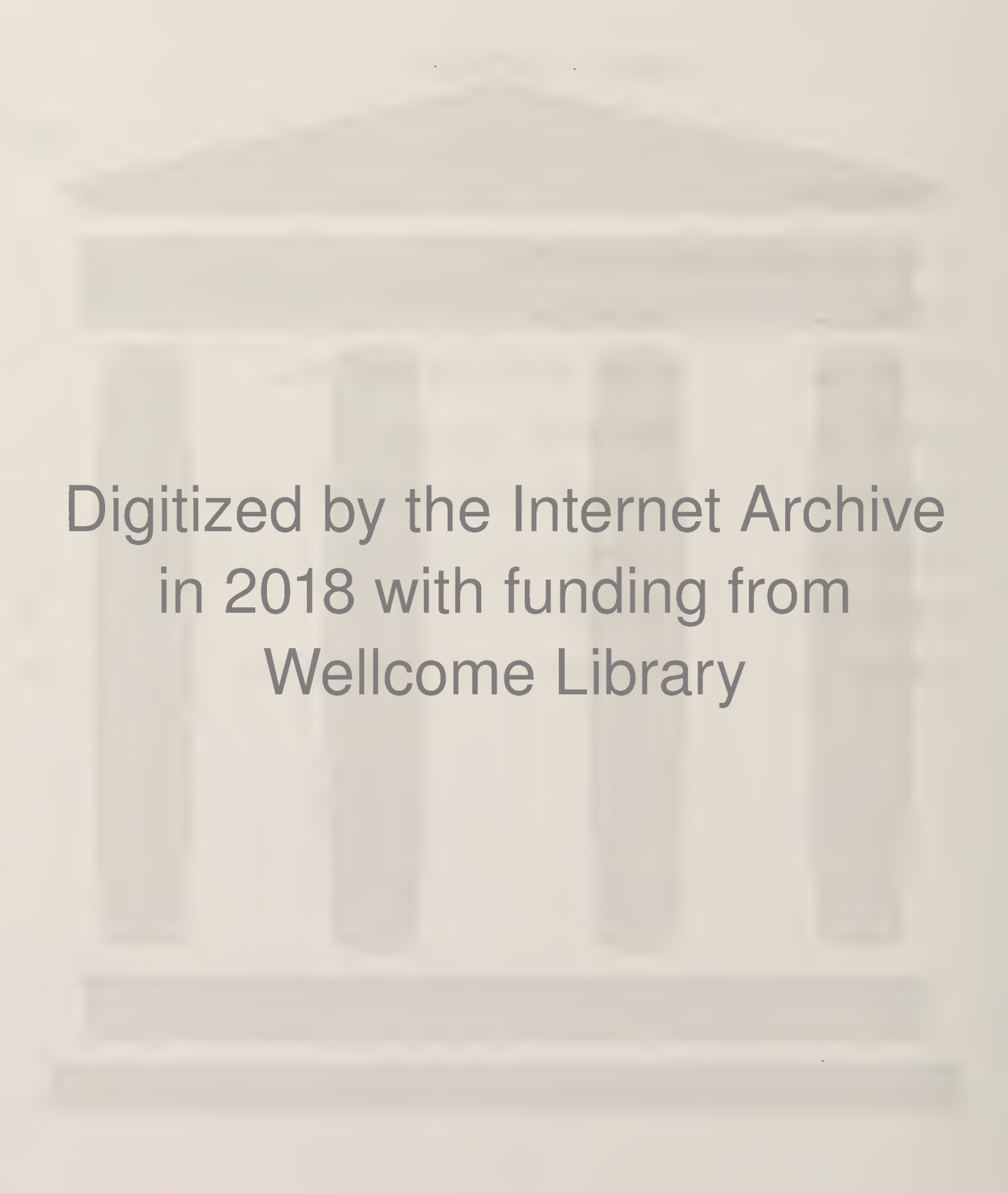
FOR THE YEAR 1964

MOIRA McQUAID, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (I) D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1964. As I only took up duty in September, the work covered by the report was in the main, carried out by my predecessor Dr. R.P. Ryan. The report is prepared in accordance with the directions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 1/61 dated 31st January 1961.

"Happy the people whose annals are blank". So said Carlyle in "Frederick the Great". The health annals of the Rural District of Totnes for the year 1964 have been happy in that no untoward or startling event has taken place.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the public health committee for their encouragement and for their continued interest in the work of the Public Health Department. To Mr Elliott, the Chief Public Health Inspector and to all the members of the Public Health Staff go my grateful thanks for their constant support and also for their assistance in the preparation of this report. Finally, I must record my appreciation of the assistance I have always freely received from the other Chief Officers of the Council and their staffs.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Moirá McQuaid.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Councillor J.D. Warren.
VICE CHAIRMAN: Councillor G. Gill.
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL: Councillor C. Bartlett, C.B.E., J.P.
together with
all members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Miss W.J. Taylor.

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ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Tel. Totnes 2242.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Miss J. Boundy.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS

Area	80,970 acres.
River frontage of tidal waters	17 miles.
Number of inhabited properties	6,021.
Dwellings owned by the council	608
Council dwellings per 1,000 population	42
Rateable value (1st April, 1964)	£431,841.
Estimated product of ld. rate	£1,830.
Population - mid 1964 estimate	15,650.
Population at 1961 census	14,968.

Births

Live births (106 males and 97 females)	203
Illegitimate births (4 males and 4 females)	8
Illegitimacy rate	3.94%
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	12.97
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population	16.47
Birth rate for England and Wales	18.4
Still births (1 male and 3 females)	4

Infant Mortality

Total infant deaths	2
Legitimate infant deaths	2
Illegitimate infant deaths	Nil
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	10
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	10

Maternal Mortality (Including Abortion)

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

Deaths

Total deaths (127 males and 115 females)	242
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	15.46
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	10.98
Death rate for England and Wales	11.3

<u>Classification of Deaths</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasms, breast	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	9	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	35	53
Coronary disease, angina	23	12	35
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
Other heart disease	12	9	21
Other circulatory disease	6	4	10
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	15	16	31
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	10	20
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	5	2	7
Suicide	1	1	2
Total	127	115	242

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals.

The Rural District is served by hospitals in Totnes, Dartmouth, Paignton, Newton Abbot, Ashburton, Torquay and Bittaford.

2. Laboratory Service

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory services at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

3. General Practitioner Medical Services.

There are 20 doctors practising in the combined districts who give medical care under the National Health Services Act 1946.

4. Mass Miniature Radiography

Although none of the parishes were visited by the Unit, the usual annual visit was made to Totnes during November and also a visit to Moorhaven Hospital where patients and staff were able to visit the unit. Arising from these two visits the following discoveries were made:-

- 1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis.
- 1 " " bronchitis and emphysema.
- 1 " " acquired cardiovascular disease.
- 2 cases of non-malignant neoplasm.
- 2 " " diaphragmatic abnormality
- 2 " " bony abnormality.

There were of course other more minor abnormalities discovered also.

During the year arrangements were well in hand for the introduction in 1965 of a fortnightly visit to all towns of the Mass Radiography Unit.

5. County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Services Act 1946, the County Council provides the following services:

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders and the aftercare of such persons.

Nine district nurse/midwives work in the district together with four health visitors and a nursing assistant. Child welfare clinics are held at regular intervals at South Brent, Stoke Gabriel and Kingswear.

The home help service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has now been introduced for the handicapped, the aged and expectant mothers. Chiropody clinics are held in South Brent, Stoke Gabriel, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Totnes.

6. Ambulance Service

There is an Ambulance Station at Totnes. This is controlled from Torquay and the telephone number of the station is Totnes 3102. Except in an emergency an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

7. Mental Health

Arrangements for treatment under the Mental Health Act 1959 can be made either by the patient's own doctor or by the Mental Welfare Officer - Mr Gliddon, Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton - Tel. Paignton 59131.

8. Family Planning Service

A clinic is held at the Central Clinic, Midvale Road, Paignton every first Monday of the month 6.30 - 7.30 p.m., every 2nd and 4th Monday 2 - 3.30 p.m. A clinic is also held at the Adult Education Centre, Dartington on the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of alternate months beginning in January of each year.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. Notifications received during the year were as follows:-

Measles	54
Pneumonia	3
Whooping cough	3
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	3
Puerperal pyrexia	2
Dysentery	1
Food poisoning	4

Three out of the four cases of food poisoning occurred within one family and the fourth person was a friend of the family. Salmonella typhimurium was isolated from the samples sent from these four people to the Public Health Laboratory. A close surveillance was kept on these people until three negative samples had been produced from each.

An isolated case of paratyphoid fever also came to my notice as a result of a hospital notification. The patient was a girl of 13 years living at East Cornworthy. No other case either in the girl's family or in the district has been reported. The food and drink consumed by the patient between her return from school and the beginning of her illness was in all cases the same as that consumed by other members of the households in which she lived. No profitable line of enquiry was suggested by her history. She did however go swimming in the Dart in a spot polluted by untreated sewage effluent seven days before the onset of her symptoms. This was possibly the source of her infection.

I also received correspondence from the Medical Officer of Health for Poole, Dorset, regarding a contact of typhoid fever. The person in question was a young lady on holiday at Churston Ferrers and she was kept under surveillance and remained perfectly well.

2. Infectious Diseases

The incidence of infectious diseases was slight. While modern preventive methods have, to a large extent, eliminated the serious infectious diseases such as smallpox and diphtheria, there is a danger inherent in this very achievement. This is that the general public may be lulled into a sense of false security and may neglect to avail itself of the protective vaccinations which have brought about the high state of immunity which the country now enjoys. There are, indeed signs that this is actually occurring in some places.

It is gratifying to report that no case of poliomyelitis has occurred. The vaccination campaign is gaining impetus and there is reason to believe that, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the world, poliomyelitis is beginning to lose its grip. Now that protective vaccination is so widely available it cannot be too strongly urged that it should not be neglected by adults. Age confers no immunity.

3. Detection and prevention of Tuberculosis

As in former years Tuberculin skin testing was carried out on all children attending primary county schools in the district and also on children aged 13 years. Thirteen-year-old children were offered - when suitable - B.C.G. vaccination and the total number of children so vaccinated in the Combined Districts was 213.

4. Smallpox Vaccination.

During the year all Medical Officers of Health throughout the country were advised by the Ministry of Health that it was inadvisable to vaccinate infants under 1 year old. This is a departure from the usual procedure by which it was customary to offer this to infants of 6 weeks old and over. This still provides protection until the child enters school.

It is essential that all who work in such establishments as hospitals, laboratories and laundries should be fully protected against smallpox. This also applies to local authority staffs and ambulance personnel who may come into contact with the disease.

5. International Vaccination Certificates

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated during the year as follows:-

Smallpox - 113
Cholera - 12
Typhoid - 7

These figures refer to the whole of Area No. 10. Devon County, that is Totnes Borough, Totnes Rural District, Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Urban Districts.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

It is understood that considerable pumping took place from the Rannay Gravels at Littlehempston during the year but despite the prolonged summer and dry autumn it was not necessary to limit the amount of water consumed. A few farms in the district with their own private supply did run short because of drought-like conditions but they received water supply from the water board.

DWELLINGS SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

Parish	1961 Pop.	No. dwellings with piped water (direct)	No. dwellings relying on stand pipes.
Ashprington	327	72	Nil
Berry Pomeroy	366	48	Nil
Buckfastleigh W.	284	42	Nil
Churston Ferrers	1,582	610	1
Cornworthy	292	40	Nil
Dartington	1,183	83	Nil
Dean Prior	305	13	Nil
Diptford	308	76	Nil
Dittisham	508	169	1
Halwell	219	56	2
Harberton	897	70	2
Harberton Ward			
Harbertonford Ward			
Holne	348	58	Nil
Kingswear	696	237	Nil
Littlehempston	203	35	Nil
Marldon	1,179	461	1
Morleigh	112	26	Nil
North Huish	355	68	Nil
Rattery	371	87	Nil
South Brent	1,803	469	Nil
Staverton	612	97	Nil
Stoke Gabriel	967	349	Nil
Ugborough	2,051	340	1

2. Refuse

Refuse is collected weekly and disposed of at five tips within the district. During the late Summer the largest collection vehicle was off the road for several weeks but in spite of this set back the collection programme was maintained. A new compression vehicle has been ordered and is expected to be in service by early summer next year, 1965. Owing to lack of co-operation of land owners in the parishes East of the River Dart refuse has now to be hauled several miles for disposal and this situation leads to a considerable amount of overtime being worked. If neighbouring Authorities are in a position similar to ourselves then a constructive discussion concerning the installation of improved methods of disposal could be a possibility.

3. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village of Capton in Dittisham parish was completed during the year. A scheme has been prepared for the extension of the overloaded sewage disposal works at Marlton and is at present being considered by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The details of the new Galmpton disposal works have been given Ministerial approval and tenders will shortly be invited.

Dean Prior sewerage scheme has also received approval by the Ministry and preparations are being made for the invitation of tenders. Preliminary survey work for Berry Pomeroy is well advanced.

4. Factories

A tabular statement is given in Appendix 1 and 11.

5. Caravans

There are:-

8 residential sites with 28 vans.

4 holiday sites with 27 vans

3 touring sites with 57 vans.

All sites were used to capacity at some time in the year. The standard of hygiene was generally good. At one large camp trouble was experienced with the overflow from a septic tank. In extending the soakaway the effluent gained access to an old land drain which communicated directly to a stream. Nuisance was caused but eventually the soakaway was re-routed and the nuisance abated.

6. Pest and Rodent Control.

The shared Operator continued to survey and treat as many properties as he was able. Attention was also given to the Annual Test Baiting of the sewers and maintenance treatments 1 and 11.

7. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Some of the premises to which this Act applies were visited within the year. Apart from minor items such as lack of a thermometer, the general provision of the regulations were complied with and consequently few Notices had to be served. It would appear that the advance publicity given by Her Majesty's Government Departments had good effect.

8. Visits and Inspections:-

Housing	37
Housing re-inspections	112
Grant Aid	210
Refuse collection and disposal	176
Drainage	209
Moveable dwellings	76
Water	38
Nuisances	53
Animal Boarding Establishments	7
Rodent Control	36
Sewerage	2
Pests	45
Meat Inspection	201
Food hygiene	41
Milk	2
Litter	6
Food poisoning	19
Pests	2
Knackers Yards	1
Accumulations	6
Disinfestation	3
Petroleum	8
Unsound food	5
Slaughterhouses	2
Infestious diseases	25
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	8
Buildings	37
National Assistance	5
Pollution	4

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Food Premises

There were 76 food premises operating in the district during the year and this figure includes 15 cafes, 2 canteens, 11 hotels and 58 retail shops. The majority of these premises were visited during the year for the purpose of advising on food hygiene and ensuring that the food hygiene regulations were being complied with.

2. Food Hygiene

The outbreak of the Typhoid epidemic in Aberdeen created an awareness amongst food handlers of the need for scrupulous cleanliness at all times. All shops and other food premises thought to be in possession of corned beef were made the subject of special visits.

3. Unsound Food

The amount of unsound food condemned was:--

43 tins of fruit.
1 tin of vegetables.
183 lbs. in all.

4. Meat Inspection

Meat inspected included:--

Steers	54
Heifers	95
Sheep	653
Pigs	299
Calves	12

The meat condemned totalled 206 lbs. No entire carcasses were condemned and the numbers of carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned totalled 34.

SECTION F.

HOUSING

1. Unfit Houses

During the year:-

- 1 Closing Order was made.
- 1 Demolition was carried out.
- 1 Clearance Area was declared comprising 6 cottages.
- 2 Undertakings previously given were cancelled.

2. Improvement Grants

Discretionary - approved 41 - paid 26 (18 of which were owner/occupied)
Standard - approved 20 - paid 17 (9 of which were owner/occupied)

3. Overcrowding.

Premises suspected of being overcrowded were inspected and at least one family was rehoused.

4. Houses in Multi-occupation

An information Notice has been served upon an owner to remedy defects and comply with the regulations.

5. Dwellings for the Elderly

Two old persons' bungalows were completed at Harbertonford and a comprehensive programme to satisfy the immediate needs in all parishes is now gaining impetus.

APPENDIX .A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964 FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF TOTNES IN
THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the
Factories Act, 1961.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	49	15	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	12	12	-	-
Total	63	29	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient.					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	5	-	-	-

PART 8 OUTWORK. SECTIONS 133 AND 134

During 1964 there were four outworkers in the district.

Nature or work.	Section 133		
	No. of outworkers in August list.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.
Making wearing apparel	3	Nil	Nil
Altering wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil
Total	4	Nil	Nil

Section 134

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
Nil	Nil	Nil

